

Amendments to the Specification

Please replace the title on page 1 with the following amended title:

COLOR-MATCHED ABUTMENT FOR DENTAL IMPLANT

Please replace paragraph [0009] with the following amended paragraph:

[0009] Recognizing the benefits of a metallic support, United States Patent 5,685,714 to Beaty *et al.* describes an abutment having two distinct sections. As seen in Figure 2, abutment 12 includes an inner section, or core 36, made from titanium or a titanium alloy and an outer section, or cuff 34, made from ceramic, typically aluminum oxide. The metallic core 36 provides the necessary strength to the abutment and provides a framework for connecting prosthesis 38 to implant 40. The ceramic cuff 34 preferably surrounds the entire exterior surface of the core 36, and shields the shadow of the metallic core 36 through the prosthesis 38. PureForm PUREFORM™ (Centerpulse Dental Inc., Carlsbad, CA), for example, is a tooth-shaped abutment composed of a titanium core and a ceramic cuff made of an alumina/zirconia blend. Screw-retained alumina or zirconia/alumina based abutments are available under the trademarks Bio-Cera™ BIO-CERA® (Bio-Lok International, Inc., Deerfield Beach, FL), CerAdapt CERADAPT™ (Nobel Biocare™ AB, Göteborg, SE) and ZiReal™ ZIREAL® Post (Implant Innovations, Inc., Wilmington, DE).

Please replace paragraph [0013] with the following amended paragraph:

[0013] Conventional abutments, such as PureForm PUREFORM™ Ceramic Coping (Centerpulse Dental Inc., Carlsbad, CA), Bio-Cera™ BIO-CERA® (Bio-Lock International, Inc., Deerfield Beach, FL), CerAdapt CERADAPT™ (Nobel Biocare™ AB, Göteborg, SE) and ZiReal™ ZIREAL® (Implant Innovations, Inc., Wilmington, DE), are typically available in one standard color chosen by the manufacturer, regardless of the material they are made from. Thus, an “exact match” between the abutment and prosthesis is not achieved. CerAdapt CERADAPT™ abutments for example, are available in Vita-Shade VITA-SHADE™ A-3 (Vita-Shade VITASHADE™ Guide, Vident, Brea, CA).

Please replace paragraph [0023] with the following amended paragraph:

[0023] Abutment 104 has two different and distinct sections preferably formed from two different materials. Core section 120 has a cylindrical configuration and extends from a top portion to a bottom portion. A passageway 126 extends centrally through the core. The bottom portion abuts against the coronal end of implant 106. Abutment 104 may be provided with a female engaging feature 128 that engages with the male engaging feature 112 to provide an anti-rotational connection between the abutment and implant. The engaging features would have matching configurations to provide the noted anti-rotational connection. Numerous configurations of engaging features known to those skilled in the art (such as Spline® SPLINE® tines, octagons, and other polygons) may be used.

Please replace paragraph [0028] with the following amended paragraph:

[0028] In accordance with one embodiment of the invention, the color of the abutment cuff 140 matches the color of the prosthesis 102. While the cuff 140 and the prosthesis 102 are preferably made from a ceramic material, such as the zirconia/alumina composite described in United States Patent 6,380,113 to Kim *et al.*, various polymers and polymer combinations such as acrylic polymers; fiber, glass, silica, and alumina reinforced polymers; thermosetting and photosensitive polymers; vinylesters; and epoxy type materials, may also be used. Suitable polymers include Sculpture® SCULPTURE® or FibreKor™ FIBREKOR® of Jeneric/Pentron, Inc. (Wallingford, CT) and Targis™ TARGIS® or Vectris™ VECTRIS® of Ivoclar Vivadent, Inc. (Schaan, LI).

Please replace paragraph [0031] with the following amended paragraph:

[0031] Other, commercially available dental shade guides include, for example, Chromoseop® CHROMOSCOP™ (Ivoclar Vivadent, Inc., Schaan, LI); Vitapan Classical VITAPAN CLASSICAL™ (Vita-Lumin VITA-LUMIN™ Vacuum Shade Guide) and Vitapan 3-D Master™ VITAPAN 3-D MASTER® (Vident, Brea, CA), and Bioform™ BIOFORM® and TruMatch™ TRUMATCH® (Dentsply International, Inc , Milford, DE).